

**2004**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana GAL/CASA**  
**Conference**

**You Make A**  
**Difference!**

**Saturday, September 25, 2004**

Downtown Marriott  
350 West Maryland Street  
Indianapolis, IN

Presented By:  
The Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA  
Division of State Court Administration  
Indiana Supreme Court

The Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA is pleased once again to announce the upcoming 2004, 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "You Make A Difference", on Saturday, September 25, 2004. This Conference is designed to educate, train and inform GAL/CASA volunteers, program managers, staff and social workers about children's issues. Application has been made for 6 hours of continuing education units for social workers. Given approval, forms for application of individual CEU hours will be provided at the conference. Additionally, with permission from their individual programs, GAL/CASA volunteers may also earn annual in-service hours by attending the Conference. Once again this year, our objective is to provide new and up-to-date information for the benefit and use of those who advocate for children across the State of Indiana. As per the request of many who have attended this event in the past, we will be offering both fewer and repeated breakout sessions this year. This will help to alleviate the problem of "too many choices, too little time" for everyone! We also plan to have two plenary sessions with dynamic speakers this year...former foster child and now professional educational advocate Steve Pemberton from Boston as well as panel of other former foster children!

**Planned Workshop Topics:**

- Your Role Throughout the CHINS Process...Guidelines For Successful Advocacy
- Meth...How It Is Impacting Our Kids
- Meaningful Participation in SNAP and Adoption Cases
- Effective Courtroom Testimony
- Cultural Diversity...Understanding Ourselves and Accepting Others
- Educational Advocacy...How You Can Improve Educational Outcomes For Foster Children
- Writing Court Reports That Count!
- The GAL/CASA Role In Divorce Custody Cases
- Foster Children's Panel...Listening To The Voices of The Children We Represent

**Parking And Lodging Information**

**PARKING:** Conference attendees will be able to park in the West Parking Garage (located directly behind the Marriott) at no cost. However, a parking pass (which has been sent out to all program/office administrators) MUST be shown when entering and leaving the garage. Be sure to ask your director for your pass! There is a skywalk that attaches to the Marriott at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor parking level (2<sup>nd</sup> floor level at the hotel). Our conference registration area will be located in the hotel just outside the skywalk. As always, there is also parking available on the street, or just two blocks away at the Circle Center Mall parking garages or in the hotel's parking garage. Cost for these parking areas varies.

**LODGING:** Fifty guest rooms have been reserved as a block for the Conference at the rate of \$139.00 for Friday, September 24. Rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis. The block will only be held until Tuesday, August 24. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!** Reservations can be made by calling (317) 822-3500, and referring to the "Volunteer State Conference" block. In the event the block of rooms is filled, there are other hotels within walking distance of the Marriott. Lists of those hotels have also been provided to each program or office.

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

**Attention GAL/CASA Directors and DFC Directors:** Please duplicate this form and give it to your volunteers and staff! Fees may be paid with one claim voucher or check. If at all possible, please mail all registrations from your program or office in at the same time. Individuals may register themselves by sending a personal check if necessary. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A DISCOUNT FOR EARLY RESERVATIONS!** Early registrations are due by September 10, 2004. After that date, ALL registrations will be \$60.00. On-site reservations will be available for \$60.00 on a first-come-first-serve basis.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I REQUEST A VEGETARIAN MEAL

Please check and complete information for one of the following:

\_\_\_ GAL/CASA VOLUNTEER, BOARD MEMBER OR STAFF (**\$40.00**)  
PROGRAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (must complete)

\_\_\_ FAMILY CASE MANAGER, ATTORNEY, OTHER (**\$50.00**)  
OFFICE/AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_ (must complete)

\_\_\_ LATE REGISTRATION (for anyone after September 10, 2004) (**\$60.00**)  
PROGRAM/OFFICE/OR AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_ (must complete)

**Once you have registered, THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS.** PLEASE DO NOT FAX, CALL IN OR EMAIL REGISTRATIONS TO OUR OFFICE. PAYMENT (OR VOUCHER) MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORMS. FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT STATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR TERESA CHRISTOPHER AT (800) 542-0813.

#### **Tentative Conference Schedule:**

<b>8-9:00 AM</b>	<b>Registration/Breakfast</b>
<b>9-10:15</b>	<b>Opening Plenary</b>
<b>10:30-11:45</b>	<b>Breakout Session One</b>
<b>12-1:45 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon/Awards</b>
<b>2-3:15</b>	<b>Breakout Session Two</b>
<b>3:15-3:30</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>3:30-4:45</b>	<b>Closing Plenary</b>

**MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS AND  
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**INDIANA STATE OFFICE OF GAL/CASA  
115 WEST WASHINGTON STREET; SUITE 1080  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204**

## **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

### **The Starfish Poem**

Once upon a time there was a wise man  
Who used to go to the ocean to do his writing.  
He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.  
One day he was walking along the shore.  
As he looked down the beach,  
He saw a human figure moving like a dancer.  
He smiled to himself to think of someone who would Dance to the day.  
So he began to walk faster to catch up.  
As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man.  
But, the young man was not dancing.  
Instead, he was reaching down to the shore,  
Picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.  
As he got closer he called out,  
“Good morning! What are you doing?”  
The young man paused, looked up and replied,  
“Throwing starfish in the ocean.”  
“I guess I should have asked,  
Why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?”  
“The sun is up and the tide is going out.  
If I don’t throw them in they’ll die.”  
“But young man, don’t you realize  
There are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it?  
You cannot possibly make a difference!”  
The young man listened politely.  
Then bent down, picked up another and threw it back into the sea,  
Past the breaking waves and said---  
“It made a difference for that one.”



**GAL/CASA**

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**INDIANA STATE GAL/CASA  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

The Indiana State Office of GAL/CASA is a Member of the National CASA Association  
This Conference is Sponsored in Part Through a Grant From NCASAA